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Applicants:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 145 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 November 19, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached PTO/SB/08A form for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

Each of the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A Form is in the English language.

The requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (199.40934X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

DES:dlh